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P R E F A C E.

ON the completion of the Third Volume of the "Transactions," a few words explanatory of the changes which have been introduced may not be out of place. From the period of the Society's formation, in 1849, to the end of the year 1853, the printing of the "Transactions" was, in consequence of the smallness and uncertainty of the income arising from subscriptions, necessarily deferred until after the close of each session, and, on one or two occasions, unavoidably postponed to a late period in the succeeding year. To remedy this evil, the more cautious mode of proceeding alluded to was abandoned, and the bi-monthly issue of the "Transactions" adopted—the printing being commenced with the year, and a full report given of the proceedings of each Meeting. All arrears have thus been long since cleared off, and the Society is now abreast of its work. The Members have almost universally expressed their approbation of the new arrangement; and it now only remains with themselves, by promptness and regularity in the payment of their subscriptions, to enable the Committee to continue the bi-monthly issue of the Society's Journal.

The Editors have again to thank Richard Hitchcock, Esq., for valuable assistance in correcting the sheets of the work as they passed through the press. The Society also is indebted, for aid

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Kilkenny, December 31st, 1855.